

Serial No. 10/600,401
67036-030
B05424-AT6B

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the detailed remarks, the allowance of claims 10-13 and 15, and the allowability of claims 6, 7, and 9. Claims 1, 3, and 15 have been amended. Claims 8 and 9 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 4, 14, and 16 have been withdrawn. New claims 17 and 18 have been presented. Accordingly, claims 1-7, and 10-18 are pending.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as paragraph 22 of Applicant's specification recites "the combustor liner 26 and the turbine nozzle 44 are sandwiched between the combustor housing 48 and the diffuser housing 40 which are preferably welded together at diffuser interface 54." Applicant has amended claim 3 and 15 to specifically recite: a combustor liner sandwiched without fasteners between said diffuser housing and said combustor housing to directly correspond with the specification. Notably, sandwiching something between two other components is a specific method of mounting or attaching which does not use fasteners, yet does attach, retain, fasten, or mount that component to the two other components. Amended claim 3 is properly allowable. It should also be noted that claim 15 which utilizes the same language as claim 3 was not rejected herein, but Applicant provides the same amendment for consistency and to broaden these claims.

Claims 1, 3, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Rodgers* (5207054). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable limitations of claim 9 and all intervening claims such that claim 1 is properly allowable.

With regard to claim 3, the Examiner refers to the combustor housing 89 in Figure 1 and 192 in Figure 6 of *Rodgers*. Notably, Applicant recites a combustor *liner* which is properly comparable to combustor 83 of *Rodgers* not the cylindrical engine case 89 of *Rodgers*. Furthermore, *Rodgers* specifically states that the annular combustor includes a radially inner wall 84 joined to the shroud 62 and a radially outer wall 86 joined to the partition 64. [Col. 5, lines 5-7]. Accordingly, claim 3 is properly allowable as *Rodgers* specifically joins the annular combustor liner (through welding of the walls 84, 86) to adjacent structure. Although effective, *Rodgers* fails to disclose or suggest Applicant's novel arrangement which does away with fasteners.

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Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Rodgers* in view of *Heitmann* (4038815). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as amended claim 1 is now properly allowable for at least the reasons described above.

New claims 17 and 18 recite further features of the present invention which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references and are thus properly allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a teleconference will facilitate moving this case forward to being issued, Applicant's representative can be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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